

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A rivet ~~holder~~ application system for a conveyor belt, the rivet application system comprising:

a rivet holder including a unitary plate body of a predetermined thickness and having an upper surface and a lower surface spaced by the predetermined thickness of the body;

 a plurality of rivets having preformed rivet heads including top surfaces that are aligned with each other;

 a plurality of rivet-receiving apertures of the unitary plate body arranged in a predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern and each having at least one retaining portion of the plate body configured to support and securely hold the rivets depending from the plate body so that the top surfaces of the rivet heads do not project above the upper surface of the plate body and the rivet head top surfaces are closer to the lower surface than the upper surface of the plate body prior to transmission of a drive force to the rivets for releasing the rivets from the plate body, with the retaining portion being flexible so that deflection of the retaining portion allows the rivet supported thereby to be released from being held to the plate body by the flexible retaining portion;

a belt fastener for being secured to the conveyor belt with the rivets;

a plurality of rivet-receiving apertures of the belt fastener;

a guide block; and

a plurality of rivet-receiving bores of the guide block with the belt fastener rivet-receiving apertures and the guide block rivet-receiving bores both being arranged in the same predetermined non-linear and non-circular pattern as the rivet-receiving apertures of

the rivet holder plate body for allowing all of the rivets held by the rivet holder to be simultaneously driven into the block body bores and then through the belt fastener apertures and into the conveyor belt.

2. (Currently Amended): The rivet ~~holder~~application system of claim 1 wherein the plate predetermined thickness is sized to receive the preformed heads of the rivets.

3. (Previously Presented): A rivet holder comprising:

a unitary plate body of a predetermined thickness and having an upper surface and a lower surface spaced by the predetermined thickness of the body;

a plurality of rivets having preformed rivet heads including top surfaces that are aligned with each other; and

a plurality of apertures of the unitary plate body configured to support the rivets depending from the plate body so that the top surfaces of the rivet heads do not project above the upper surface of the plate body, and the rivet head top surfaces are closer to the lower surface than the upper surface of the plate body,

wherein the plate body has integral drive heads overlying the apertures.

4. (Original) The rivet holder of claim 3 wherein the plate includes frangible portions integrally connected to the drive heads about the apertures.

5. (Original) The rivet holder of claim 3 wherein the drive heads have substantially aligned top surfaces that cooperate to allow for compact stacking with drive head top surfaces from one rivet holder securely engaged against drive head top surfaces from another rivet holder.

6. (Currently Amended) The rivet ~~holder~~application system of claim 1 wherein the plate body includes portions including the retaining portion above and generally below the heads of the rivets in the apertures to capture the heads therein.

7. (Previously Presented) A rivet holding system comprising:

a plurality of interconnected unitary plates of a plastic molded material and each having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a frangible bridge between adjacent plates;

a plurality of rivets having rivet heads including top surfaces and lower surfaces thereof; and

a plurality of rivet-receiving apertures of the unitary plates configured to support the rivets depending from the plates with each plate having a predetermined non-linear pattern of rivet-receiving apertures which is the same as the predetermined non-linear pattern of rivet-receiving apertures in the other interconnected plates,

wherein the plate includes portions that are molded above and generally below the heads of the rivets in the apertures to capture the heads therein so that the top surfaces thereof do not project above the plate upper surface, and the plate portions below the rivet heads comprise webs about each aperture spaced by a radially enlarged opening between adjacent webs so that the webs engage with the rivet heads from therebelow and against the lower surfaces thereof.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A rivet collating system comprising:

a plurality of rivets each including an enlarged, preformed head at one end thereof;

a plate body forming a plurality of apertures configured for retaining the rivet heads therein;

a drive head associated with each of the plate apertures and including at least one frangible portion for releasably connecting the drive head with the plate body;

a body of each of the drive heads sized in clearance with the associated plate aperture to allow the drive heads to be driven down into the corresponding apertures of

the plate body with the frangible portion severed to push the rivet heads out from the apertures; and

an upper portion of each of the drive heads sized in interference with the associated plate apertures to retain the downwardly driven drive heads in the associated aperture of the plate body.

10. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 9 including a guide block having guide bores for the rivets with the plate apertures aligned with the guide bores and the driven drive heads causing the rivet heads to enter the guide bores.

11. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 10 wherein the guide block is sized to fit over a plurality of conveyor belt fasteners, and the plate body includes a plurality of plate bodies connected in a strip for being associated with each belt fastener.

12. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate body comprises a unitary body through which the apertures are formed.

13. (Previously Presented) A rivet collating system comprising:

a plurality of rivets each including an enlarged, preformed head at one end thereof;

a plate body forming a plurality of apertures configured for retaining the rivet heads therein; and

a drive head associated with each of the plate apertures and including at least one frangible portion for releasably connecting the drive head with the plate body to allow the drive heads to be driven relative to the plate body to push the rivet heads out from the apertures,

wherein the plate body includes circumferentially spaced webs about each aperture underlying each rivet head to retain the head in the aperture.

14. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the webs include an opening between adjacent webs that extends beyond the aperture.

15. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate frangible portions and the plate webs are vertically offset from each other.

16. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate frangible portions engage on top of the rivet heads in the aperture and the webs engage under the rivet heads to capture the rivet heads in the aperture.

17. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 13 wherein the plate body includes a predetermined thickness, and the plate frangible portions and the plate webs are substantially within the plate body thickness.

18. (Original): The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate includes a substantially flat upper surface and the drive heads project upwardly above the plate upper surface for being engaged by a driver tool.

19. (Previously Presented): The rivet collating system of claim 18 wherein the rivet heads include a top surface that does not project above the plate upper surface.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A rivet collating system comprising:

a plurality of rivets each including an enlarged, preformed head at one end thereof;

a plate body forming a plurality of apertures configured for retaining the rivet heads therein; and

a drive head associated with each of the plate apertures and including at least one frangible portion for releasably connecting the drive head with the plate body to allow the drive heads to be driven relative to the plate body to push the rivet heads out from the apertures,

wherein the drive heads each include an upper portion sized in interference with the associated aperture to keep the drive head from passing therethrough, and the drive head includes a cylindrical body extending up from the plate over the associated aperture, and the upper portion of the drive head comprises a flange at a free end of the cylindrical body and enlarged relative thereto.

22. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the rivets each include a pilot nail detachably connected thereto.

23. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 22 including a guide block having guide bores for receiving the rivets and nails, and a guide member on the pilot nail or rivet to keep the rivets aligned in the guide bores for being driven through belt fastener apertures.

24. (Original) The rivet collating system of claim 9 wherein the plate is of a plastic material that is molded with the rivets in place to capture the preformed heads in the apertures thereof.

25-27. (Canceled)